

and that was how you found your way."

Vaughn is a committed family man and has the priceless gift of a supportive and loving wife. "My wife was my strength during the hard times when I suffered casualties and lost Marines. She was the only one I could talk to, and I can't believe how difficult it must have been to hear me broken up over the death of my Marines, and be powerless to do anything but listen and offer words of comfort, thousands of miles away. She got me through my deployment." Vaughn also has the support and love of two sisters, Shellie Amundson and Logan Tranmer, both who live in Idaho.

Finally, Vaughn makes a point of sharing the good things that our military is doing in Iraq. He notes that Al Anbar Province has been transformed over the past year. The marines of Charlie Company engaged the enemy, purposefully, and fought al-Qaida on terms determined by the U.S. military, not the insurgents. As a direct result of the actions of Vaughn's company, the insurgents, at one point, issued a public message that if the Marines of Company C would stay "inside the wire," they would cease attacks on coalition forces. Vaughn says, "We did not let them dictate how we did our job, and we were successful. There are good stories out there—stories that need and must be told."

I have only highlighted a few of Vaughn's many accomplishments, both on the battlefield and off. He is more than deserving of these accolades, although he is quick to point out that his company deserves the responsibility for his Bronze Star. We can only hope that men of Vaughn's caliber will continue their public service to our great Nation as his generation begins to take the reigns. I am honored to be able to tell of this remarkable Idahoan, his family, and the men of Charlie Company here in the Senate and privileged to publicly offer my humble thanks and that of my family, State, and country for Major Vaughn Ward's extraordinary and valorous service to the United States of America, and I am proud to call him an Idaho son.

#### BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am grateful for this opportunity to join my many friends across the United States, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, and El Salvador in celebrating the seventh annual Binational Health Week.

Since its inception in 2001, Binational Health Week has afforded us an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the many successful efforts made here in the United States in cooperation with Mexican, Canadian, Guatemalan, and Salvadorian consulates and health care providers to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being amongst migrant populations that might otherwise lack access to important health care services.

Binational Health Week originated as an effort by Mexico's Secretary of Health to direct health care services to the underserved migrant populations living and working in the United States. The network of Mexican consulates throughout the country has partnered with U.S. Federal, State, and local agencies, Mexico's Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs, as well as private companies and foundations. These growing partnerships and the information they provide have reached an estimated 238,000 people across the United States and Canada.

We must continue to work together at the Federal, State, and community levels with our friends throughout the world to encourage individuals and families to practice healthy lifestyles. I wish all those celebrating Binational Health Week every continuing success as they pursue new and exciting opportunities to promote health and well-being in our communities.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN MEMORY OF HOWARD HOLTAN

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on September 22, 2007, lifelong Alaskan Howard Holtan died when his plane crashed during takeoff near Whittier, AK. Howard not only was a personal friend of mine but also to the hundreds of Alaskan children he coached through the Alyeska Mighty Mites, a volunteer-operated ski racing program for children. Under Howard's guidance, my two sons developed their skills and a passion for ski racing while my husband and I volunteered as Mighty Mites parents.

Howard began coaching skiing in 1971. He was the magic and the muscle behind the Mighty Mites, running the program almost singlehandedly from his personal laptop since the mid-1980s when he became the Mighty Mites director. Howard strove to introduce the fundamentals and joy of alpine ski racing to children of all abilities, while also giving kids self-confidence, a sense of accomplishment, and an appreciation for good sportsmanship. Howard ensured that lots of fun was had by all. There is no doubt that he helped make the Mighty Mites one of the most successful youth ski programs in America. In fact, Olympians Megan Gerety and Rosey Fletcher and former U.S. Ski Team members Mike Makar and Kjersti Bjorn-Roli started out as young Mighty Mites. For the ski community, it will be hard to imagine a Mighty Mites ski race without Howard's trademark "cherub" smile or his presence somewhere on the hill.

Howard's passion for downhill skiing and dedication to Alaska's youth was almost matched by his commitment to public service—he spent 16 years working for the municipality of Anchorage, and was promoted to director of project management and engineering 8 years ago. Howard's legacy is everywhere in

Anchorage as he had a hand in most of the roads and major projects in the city.

Howard will be sorely missed by countless Alaskans. Not surprisingly, the Discovery Theatre at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts overflowed with all those who came to celebrate and honor Howard's life. Howard is survived by his wife Roberta Carney; son Aaron Holtan and his wife, Carrie Holtan; daughter Kathryn Holtan, now at Washington State University; grandchildren, Erik and James; and brother Jay Holtan and his wife, Patricia O'Gorman. I would like to extend my condolences to his family and friends, and I wish his wife Roberta, who was injured in the crash, a speedy recovery.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JEROLD F. LUCEY

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the State of Vermont is proud that one of its residents, Dr. Jerold F. Lucey, recently received the Alfred I. duPont Award for Excellence in Children's Health Care. The award is offered each year to an individual in the health care profession who has made a major contribution to preventing childhood diseases.

Dr. Lucey helped pioneer phototherapy to prevent infant jaundice. He also played an essential role in bringing artificial surfactants from Japan to this country. The surfactants help premature newborns breathe, and since their introduction in the United States just over 15 years ago they have helped reduce infant mortality respiratory distress rate by 90 percent.

In addition, Dr. Lucey has developed the Vermont Oxford Network, which links 700 medical institutions in 25 nations to a network that tracks data on underweight-newborns, managing the data of more than 50,000 infants each year. This collaborative system has enabled advanced research, and the sharing of medical procedures that work, among pediatricians all over the globe.

Jerold Lucey is Professor of Neonatology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, where he has taught for more than 50 years. He also was the chief of Newborn Services at Fletcher Allen Health Care medical center in Burlington, VT, and in addition served as editor-in-chief of the journal Pediatrics for 35 years.

We in Vermont are very proud of the work Dr. Jerold F. Lucey has done, both with infants in our State, and for the health of children everywhere.●

#### TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL AIDS WALK PORTLAND

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, next Sunday, October 14, dedicated residents of the Portland area will gather for the 21st annual AIDS Walk, an event that raises much needed funding to support the work of the Cascade AIDS Project, CAP. I would like to recognize the